

Agency: Department of Natural Resources**Project Title:**

Palmer Plant Material Center - Virus Free Seed Potato Project

State Funding Requested: \$ 130,000
Future Funding May Be Requested**House District: Statewide (1-40)****Brief Project Description:**

Continues funding for the Palmer Plant Material Center for the growing, testing and certification of virus free seed potatoes.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$130,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Continues funding for the Palmer Plant Material Center for the growing, testing and certification of virus free seed potatoes. This program has been funded for nearly 25 years as a joint project with the University and DNR. Although the University's interaction with the seed potato testing is no longer needed the department continues its work with this crop.

Project Timeline:

2008

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Department of Natural Resources

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Stoney Wright

Phone Number: 907-745-4469

Address: 5310 S Bodenbug Spur, Palmer, AK 99645

Email: stoney.wright@alaska.gov

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



Bill Allen
City Manager

City of Palmer
231 W. Evergreen Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6952
Phone (907) 745-3271
ballen@palmerak.org
www.cityofpalmer.org

March 21, 2008

The Honorable Lyda Green
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Green:

Your support of vital capital projects for the Valley is greatly appreciated, and your office has been extremely helpful in working with the City of Palmer toward our mutual goals during this legislative session.

I am writing to provide information highlighting the importance of Valley-specific funding requests. The City of Palmer supports inclusion of the following projects in SB 256 and encourages Governor Palin to allow for their funding in the supplemental budget. They are important for the safety of Valley residents, and for continued economic development of the Greater Palmer area.

Mat-Su Baseball, Inc.

- Over 15,000 citizens utilize and visit the ballpark annually
- Hermon Brothers Ball Field is home to both Palmer and Colony High Schools in the spring; hosts the Mat-Su Miners semi-pro team in the summer; and is used by the Alaska State Fair from August through Labor Day
- Multiple users ensure state dollars are maximized, however the only time the field is available for improvements is Labor Day through October
- Funding in the supplemental bill allows for supplies to be purchased, contractors hired, and work to start immediately after the Alaska State Fair concludes on September 2; if funding is delayed another construction season is lost
- The funds will rebuild the 32 year old outfield fence which is literally falling down; replace the backstop originally installed in 1976; and re-build the concession stand which provides a funding stream throughout the entire season which helps keep the non-profit sustainable.

Palmer Arts Council

- The Performing Arts Center will serve several thousand people for productions in the 300-seat theater within the first year of opening, and will provide arts and arts education summer events and camps for residents and summer visitors
- Upwards of 1,000 children will participate in active programs and enrichment activities at the Center
- The supplemental funding will provide land clearing, demo of the existing old construction, potential hazardous waste cleanup and property inspection
- Delay in initiating the planned Arts Center will cause the project to incur up to a 10% increase in annual building costs, and will cause costs to accrue on the acquired but unused property. Additional funding resources, including solicitation of grants and other revenue sources are dependent on and will follow the initial State funding

Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

- State Funds are vital to attract other funding – 2.5 million in matching funds have been appropriated by the Borough but will not be released until VCRS has all funding in place. The Rasmuson Foundation has expressed an interest in the project, but will not provide lead money
- Delaying the project to the fiscal year budget will cause the entire effort to be set back another year causing economic hardship to the organization and potentially the Borough
- The project will have a positive economic impact on the Borough as trash is diverted from the landfill – six million dollars in public money has been spent since 2004 in the design and construction of new cells at the landfill
- The temporary facility is unsafe; the building is falling down causing much work to be completed outside in one of the windiest spots in the Borough
- The temporary location is immediately adjacent to one of the busiest intersections on the 5th most dangerous road in the state
- VCRS has a 40% annual growth rate in people recycling without any overt advertising – a new facility is needed now

Palmer High School (PHS) Bleachers


- The funding for bleachers will complete last year's appropriation and provide safety consideration for attendees at PHS events
- This will allow for the construction of safety steps for the internal bleachers and provide a concrete pad for the external bleachers, allowing both accommodation for handicapped access and facilitation of future expansion
- The internal bleachers accommodate in excess of 667 (current student population at PHS), and the external bleachers allow for seating of up to 300 people per event

Palmer-Wasilla Highway Improvements

- The Palmer-Wasilla Highway is the 5th most dangerous road in the State, serving approximately 14,500 vehicles per day (2005) just west of Palmer. Traffic is anticipated to grow to over 40,000 vehicles per day by 2030, even with the Bogard Road Extension to Palmer
- Work must begin now and must be pursued vigorously and continuously to keep up with growing traffic and to keep the Palmer-Wasilla Highway from moving up any higher on the list of dangerous roads

Thank you for your hard work on our behalf.

Best personal regards,



B. B. Allen

**Cooperative Extension Service****Kenai Peninsula District**

43961 K-Beach Rd., Suite A

Soldotna, AK 99669-9728

(907) 262-5824 , fax (907) 262-3939

Director Franci Havemeister
Division of Agriculture
1800 Glen Highway, Suite 12
Palmer, AK 99645

December 17, 2007

Dear Director Havemeister:

For more than ten years, Bill Campbell (Plant Materials Center Potato Certification Program) has supplied the Kenai Peninsula gardeners and the Extension Service with high quality, certified seed potatoes for local variety trials and subsistence gardens. This abruptly ended two years ago, under the DeVilbiss administration, leaving all of us with few local potato variety options, and the real threat that for the first time, home gardeners may look outside of Alaska for their seed-potato needs, including to the dreaded supermarket stock. All of the advantages to the state of Alaska from years of in-state potato certification and sanitation programs could be lost in a very short time if this trend is allowed to continue and serious lower 48 potato diseases are introduced.

Bill Campbell remains one of the very few State advocates for retaining this vital certification and seed-increase program for Alaska. His dedication to the Alaska Potato Industry through years of experience and training has kept our potatoes competitive on the world market, and an array of novelty spud varieties available to subsistence gardeners statewide.

On his own time, Bill has preached the potato gospel to growers and home gardeners alike. He is well respected in Alaska, across the US and internationally. We have all appreciated Bill's expertise and help in developing potatoes as a major crop in Alaska. It is my sincere hope that Bill and his past programs will be returned to the state, the Potato Industry and the consumers of Alaska Grown potatoes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Jahns', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Thomas R. Jahns
CES Agriculture and Horticulture Program Chair
Kenai Peninsula District Agent



Alaska Seed Growers, Inc.

P.O. BOX 896

PALMER, ALASKA 99645

Dear Senator Green,

I would strongly encourage you to support the current funding request for Bill Campbell's Seed Potato Project at the Alaska Plant Materials Center. These funds are critical for the continuation of that project.

I know we can always count on your support and hopefully you can convince your peers and the Governor that this project is critical to the potato industry in Alaska. Growers have provided fresh and processed potato products for decades. Their success is dependant on the availability of the correct varieties and clean seed provided by the PMC.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pat Mulligan, Manager
745-6017

Ginger Blaisdell

From: Stoney [stoneyj@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 6:20 PM
To: Sen. Lyda Green
Cc: Ginger Blaisdell
Subject: PMC

Sen Green

The PMC really needs both CIP projects as listed in the Gov's budget.

Bill is working on a bunch of support letters for the Supplemental item which is quite important to us but....You will have what you need by morning.

Also, I told Sen. Wagoner why we cannot get grass seed from the lower forty eight. I thought he understood we produced these varieties in Alaska and they are not available in the other states or Canada. The funding source change 500K is critical to the PMC. He said he understood on Feb 28,. Making it a one year increment will cause my new employees to leave as they need some degree of security and they are not willing to put up with what Bill and I did for years. Please make sure that in Conference Committee the House version is selected for our 500 K funding source change. That is for the long term good of the PMC.

Thanks

Stoney Wright

DATE: March 21, 2008

TO: Senator Lyda Green

RE: Seed Potato Support Letters

FAX: 1-907-465-3805

Senator Green attached is seed potato support letters for the Seed Potato Program at the Plant Materials Center.

To: Franci Havemeister
 Director of Division of Agriculture
 1800 Glen Hwy. Suite 12
 Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Director Havemeister:

For more than ten years, Bill Campbell (Plant Materials Center Potato Certification Program) has supplied the Kenai Peninsula gardeners and the Cooperative Extension Service with high quality, certified seed potatoes for local variety trials and subsistence gardens. This abruptly ended two years ago, under the previous administration, leaving all of us with few local potato variety options. During that time we have had to make do with what we could find, some home gardeners looked outside of Alaska for their seed-potato needs and a few even planted the dreaded supermarket stock. All of the advantages to the state of Alaska from years of in-state potato certification and sanitation programs could be lost in a very short time if this trend is allowed to continue and serious potato diseases are introduced from the lower 48 and table stock.

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On his own time, Bill has preached the potato gospel to growers and home gardeners alike. His generous knowledge is always approached with humor and enthusiasm. He is well respected here in Alaska, across the United States and internationally. We have all appreciated Bill's expertise and help in developing potatoes as a major crop in Alaska along with our own bountiful potato gardens. It is my sincere hope that Bill and his past programs will be returned to the state, the Potato Industry and the consumers of Alaska Grown potatoes.

Sincerely,

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Peggy Craig | PO Box 2317, Homer AK |
| 2. Mary Lee Bitter | 6247 Bay Lane, Homer, AK |
| 3. John & Mary | PO Box 1000, Homer, AK |
| 4. Shirley Ferguson | 11211 1107, Homer, AK |
| 5. Linda J. Thibault | 66090 Westside Ct Anchorage, AK |

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|-------------------------|---|
| 6. Laura Leland | P.O. Box 2362 Homer AK 99603 |
| 7. Carol Demers | P.O. Box 2612 Homer |
| 8. Susan Woodward | 488 Eldonberry Ln, Homer |
| 9. Mary Schneider | P.O. Box 15214 Fritz Creek 99603 |
| 10. Denise Cluser | 59855 Sanford Dr Homer |
| 11. Wanne Cutler | 40130 Portlock Homer |
| 12. Karen Berger | 1411 Lake Shore Dr. Homer |
| 13. Millie Lewis | 4163 Rainbow Place, Homer AK |
| 14. Jeanne McWhorter | P.O. Box 704 Homer AK |
| 15. Traine Murphy | P.O. Box 597 Homer AK 99603 |
| 16. Vera Smith | P.O. Box 3235 Homer AK 99603 |
| 17. Mary Lou Kelsey | Box 894 Homer AK 99603 |
| 18. Inaie Brown | Box 429 Homer AK 99603 |
| 19. Elizabeth Leland | P.O. Box 695 Homer AK 99603 |
| 20. Barry Popkatz | Box 1856 Homer AK 99603 |
| 21. Anna Timishin | Box 1856 Homer AK 99603 |
| 22. Tracy Asselin | 2101 Sterling Hwy Homer AK 99603 |
| 23. Paul VanNoelen | 34601 Alamar Rd, Anchor Point, AK 99553 |
| 24. Rachael Roe | P.O. Box 2174, 4150 West Hill Rd Homer AK |
| 25. Brenda Adams | P.O. Box 359, Homer, AK 99603 |
| 26. Patrick J. Church | P.O. Box 2080 Homer, Alaska 99603 |
| 27. Patricia A. Kennedy | 135 W. BIRVIEW AVE. HOMER AK 99603-702 |

To: Franci Havemeister
 Director of Division of Agriculture
 1800 Glen Hwy. Suite 12
 Palmer, AK 99645

RECEIVED

DEC 2007

Dear Director Havemeister:

Div. of Agriculture

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Sincerely,

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Lisa Roberts</u> | <u>35700 Southern Bluff - Soldotna 99665</u> |
| 2. <u>Mike Harris</u> | <u>36381 Pine St. Soldotna 99665</u> |
| 3. <u>Billie Shackleton</u> | <u>485 Longberry Lane Sold.</u> <u>99669</u> |
| 4. <u>Kathleen Zerbe</u> | <u>37070 Cannery Rd Kenai 99611</u> |
| 5. <u>Elizabeth Ladner</u> | <u>31571 K-Brook Pol, Kenai 99611</u> |

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|------------------------------|--|
| 6. <u>Kate Graber</u> | <u>47146 Lexington Ct. Kenai AK 99611</u> |
| 7. <u>John Christopher</u> | <u>P.O. Box 3633 Soldotna AK 99669</u> |
| 8. <u>Betty Sullivan</u> | <u>POB 8526 Nikiski AK 99635</u> |
| 9. <u>Rebecca Hinsberger</u> | <u>PO Box 440, Kaslof AK 99611</u> |
| 10. <u>Curtis Stigall</u> | <u>P.O. Box 837 Sterling AK 99672</u> |
| 11. <u>Janice Chumby</u> | <u>PO Box 7001 Nikiski AK 99635</u> |
| Angela Smith | POB 7110 Nikiski AK 99635 |
| 13. <u>Pat Dwinell</u> | <u>36015 Edgington Rd Soldotna, AK 99669</u> |
| 14. <u>Kay Shearer</u> | <u>51402 Josie St, Kenai, AK 99611</u> |
| 15. <u>Rebecca Jorgensen</u> | <u>PO Box 1936 Kenai</u> |
| 16. <u>Mary Horan</u> | <u>P.O. Box 164, Kenai, AK 99611</u> |
| 17. <u>Barb Shanahan</u> | <u>37770 Conner Rd, Soldotna, AK 99669</u> |
| 18. <u>Susan K Slomp</u> | <u>38220 Conner Rd Soldotna AK 99669</u> |
| 19. <u>Cathy Haas</u> | <u>P.O. Box 951, Sterling, AK 99672</u> |
| 20. <u>Brian Olson</u> | <u>48660 West Poppy Ln Soldotna AK 99669</u> |
| 21. <u>Linda Watters</u> | <u>44582 Carver Dr Kenai, AK 99611</u> |
| 22. <u>Don Jones</u> | <u>P.O. Box 7001 N. KS. AK 99635</u> |
| 23. <u>Deirdre Sammel</u> | <u>51122 Polaris Way Kenai AK 99611</u> |
| 24. <u>Nancy Veal</u> | <u>47437 Steven St Kenai AK 99611</u> |
| 25. <u>Amanda Stigall</u> | <u>P.O. Box 837, Sterling, AK 99672</u> |
| 26. <u>Robert Stigall</u> | <u>P.O. Box 837, Sterling, AK 99672</u> |
| 27. _____ | _____ |

To: Franci Havemeister
 Director of Division of Agriculture
 1800 Glen Hwy, Suite 12
 Palmer, AK 99645

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Sincerely,

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Reemans Kimball</u> | <u>Glacier Ave Sterling 99672</u> |
| 2. <u>Wesley Munt</u> | <u>PO Box 3813 Soldotna 99669</u> |
| 3. <u>Joe Kent</u> | <u>PO Box 345 Soldotna 99669</u> |
| 4. <u>Tammy Whiting</u> | <u>54575 Kuskoowim Ave Kenai 99611</u> |
| 5. <u>Mary Lee Greger</u> | <u>Box 820 Kenai 99611</u> |

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 6. Linda Lemanski | P.O. Box 1612 Kenai AK 99611 |
| 7. SUSAN WESLEY | P.O. BOX 2241 KENAI AK 99611 |
| 8. Lonna Merchant | P.O. Box 7554 NIKISKI, AK 99635 |
| 9. PATTI FUEHRER | P.O. Box 1654 SOLDOTNA 99669 pluk eak n |
| 10. Kathy Threlkeld | P.O. Box 157 Soldotna AK 99669 |
| 11. Wally O'Hara | 35555 Kenai Sp. Hwy #253 Soldotna 99669 |
| 12. Ron Sexton | P.O. Box 882 Soldotna 99669 |
| 13. Kathy Sexton | P.O. Box 882 Soldotna 99669 |
| 14. Martine Hightower | P.O. Box 475, Sterling 99672 |
| 15. Will Hightower | P.O. Box 475, Sterling 99672 |
| 16. Jim Hightower | P.O. Box 4216 Soldotna, AK 99669 |
| 17. Mike Bailey | Box 83 - Clear Gulch 99568 |
| 18. Kate Pea | P.O. Box 288 Kenai AK 99611 |
| 19. Jess Nancy Casey | 34360 Sienna Circle Soldotna 99669 |
| 20. Sharon Rogers | 5335 King Salmon Kenai 99611 |
| 21. Linda Barclay | P.O. Box 1349 Soldotna, AK 99669 |
| 22. LOWSTILES | 35760 KING SALMON AVE - Sel. 99669 |
| 23. Renee Estelle | P.O. Box 1122 Soldotna, AK 99669 |
| 24. Morton McNeil | P.O. Box 1612 Kenai 99611 |
| 25. Jeff B Jones | P.O. BOX 7001 NIKISKI, AK 99635 |
| 26. Duhlin McKay | 55441 Chinoak Rd. Kenai, 99611 |
| 27. Joan Carr | 46430 East Poppy Lane, Soldotna 99669 |

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 28. Emily L Rodland | Box 665 Kenai AK 99611 |
| 29. [unclear] | Kenai AK 99611 |
| 30. Rod Thompson | 4036 Forget-me-not Rd Kenai AK 99611 |
| 31. MARY JANIK | P.O. BOX 1068 SOLDOTNA, AK 99669 |
| 32. Ben VanderWeele | P.O. Box 461 Palmer AK 99645 |
| 33. | |
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| 35. | |
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